

Dear Mary & Justin - Thought you might like to see this: I remember Dan Eastman ~~but~~, but didn't know he had died. Did you? Best to you all - *Lee*

THE NEW YORK TIMES, T

IDA RAUH, HELPED CREATE THEATER

Provincetown Pioneer Dies
—Max Eastman's Ex-Wife

Mrs. Ida Rauh Eastman, a founder of the historic Provincetown Players and an outspoken feminist, died Feb. 28 at her home, 15 East 11th Street. She was 92 years old.

Mrs. Eastman, who preferred to be known as Ida Rauh, was the first wife of the late Max Eastman, the writer and editor, and the mother of his only child, Dan, a psychologist, who died last year. The Eastmans were married in 1911 and divorced in 1922 after a long separation.

A beautiful woman of some dramatic talent, Miss Rauh acted in many of the plays put on by the Provincetowners at their theater in Macdougall Street here and on Cape Cod between 1915 and 1920. She was known as "the Duse of Macdougall Street" for the emotional exuberance of her acting.

She directed the first production of Eugene O'Neill's "Where the Cross Is Made," a one-act. The Provincetowners, according to a biography of O'Neill, helped "to fan into existence" native American drama.

No Actors at Start

Recalling the beginnings of the theater group, Miss Rauh told a friend a couple of years ago:

"It was the summer of 1915 in Provincetown. There were no actors and nobody in show business around. There were just painters and sculptors and writers and a few intelligent people who liked the theater and thought it was in an awful mess, and there was nothing they wanted to go see.

"Well, we thought it would be nice to have a theater of our own and to put on our own plays. The Hutchins Haggoods were there, and George Cram Cook and his wife, Susan Glasspell; and Jack Reed and Eugene O'Neill — they were all writers, so some of them wrote one-act plays.

"Mary Heaton Vorse owned a wharf in Provincetown, with a fish house on the end. It was really just an old cabin, but we used it as our theater. We had no seats or benches; people had to bring cushions and sit on the floor. We were successful and the next year we moved to MacDougall Street in New York."

Miss Rauh remained with the group until 1920, when "I grew bored with the theater." Then she concentrated on sculpture and painting.

Holder of Law Degree

Miss Rauh, who was born in New York on March 7, 1877, was the daughter of Samuel and Rosa Rauh. She received a law degree from New York University in 1905, but never practiced. She met Mr. Eastman in Greenwich Village. He remembered her in his autobiography as "gifted and graceful, thoughtfully witty, ambitious of freedom, which a moderate income enabled her to enjoy, and very good to look at."

A strong advocate of equal rights for women, Miss Rauh made it a point of honor to be known by her maiden name. She was active in Margaret Sanger's birth-control campaigns, and was arrested here in 1916 for passing out birth-control pamphlets. She received a suspended sentence on a charge of obscenity.

As a sculptor, Miss Rauh did a well-known bust of D. H. Lawrence, a close friend. The sculpture is in the Lawrence Memorial Library in New Mexico. She also painted professionally and wrote poetry, a volume of which, called "And this Little Life," was published in 1959.

Miss Rauh is survived by a sister, Florence, and a brother, Herbert, both of New York. A memorial service will be held this spring in Provincetown, where she passed her summers.



Mrs. Ida Rauh Eastman